

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 17 and 19. **Please also amend** claims 1-4, 6, 8, 13, 15, and 16, and **add** new claims 20 and 21, as shown in the complete list of claims that is presented below.

1. (currently amended) An image recording apparatus comprising:
 - a plurality of groups of driven elements which are driven for printing on a medium;
 - a driving section connected to the driven elements;
 - a first memory for storing a plurality of correction values for correcting for variations in the driven elements, each correction value corresponding to a respective one of the driven elements;
 - a print controller for receiving an input data signal and controlling the driving section and the memory, the print controller generating a clock signal, the print controller including a second memory; and
 - a connection arrangement for connecting the print controller to the driving section, the connection arrangement including a clock signal line, a data line, and a plurality of strobe signal lines, that connect the strobe signal lines connecting the print controller to the first memory in addition to the driving section,
 - wherein the print controller reads the connection values out of the first memory using the strobe signal lines, the read-out correction values being stored in the second memory and then being transmitted to the driving section over the data line in synchronism with the clock signal,
 - wherein the print controller generates print data from the input data and transfers the print data to the driving section via the connection arrangement over the data line in synchronism with the clock signal, the print data being transferred to the driving section after the correction values have been transferred to the driving section, and
 - wherein the print controller generates strobe signals that are conveyed to the driving section via the strobe signal lines and that cause the driving section to drive the groups of driven elements in accordance with the print data, and data.

~~wherein the print controller reads the correction values out of the memory via the strobe signal lines and conveys the correction values to the driving section via the connection arrangement.~~

2. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said second memory and said driving section are provided in a head, and head.
~~said print controller reads out the correction values from said memory provided in said head and transmits the correction values to the driving section provided in the head prior to a printing operation.~~

3. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said correction values stored in said first memory are compressed correction values,
said print controller comprises a decompressing circuit for decompressing the compressed correction values stored in said first memory, and
~~said print controller reads out the compressed correction data from said memory and decompresses it prior to a printing operation, and transmits the decompressed correction data~~ are transmitted to said driving section.

4. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said print controller comprises a compressing circuit for compressing correction values to be stored into said first memory and the correction values are compressed by said compressing circuit and written into said first memory.

5. (original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said driven elements are LED elements for emitting recording light.

6. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said print controller is constructed so as to be connectable to an external upstream apparatus, said upstream apparatus supplying said input data to said print controller and

when a read command for reading of the correction values is received from said upstream apparatus, said print controller reads out the correction values from said first memory and transmits them to said upper apparatus.

7. (original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said driven elements are thermal elements.

8. (currently amended) An image recording apparatus comprising:

a plurality of groups of driven elements which are driven for printing on a medium;

a driving section connected to the driven elements, the driving section including a plurality of driving circuits which drive said groups of driven elements;

a first memory for storing a plurality of correction values for correcting for variations in the driven elements, each correction value corresponding to a respective one of the driven elements;

a print controller for receiving an input data signal and controlling the driving section and the first memory, the print controller generating a clock signal; and

a connection arrangement for connecting the print controller to the driving section, the connection arrangement including a clock signal line, a data signal line, and a plurality of strobe signal lines, that connect the strobe signal lines connecting the print controller to the first memory in addition to the driving section,

wherein the print controller generates print data from input data and transfers the print data to the driving section ~~via the connection arrangement~~ over the data signal line in synchronism with the clock signal,

wherein the print controller comprises a CPU which generates strobe signals that are conveyed to the driving section via the strobe signal lines to cause the driving section to drive the groups of driven elements in accordance with the print ~~data;~~ data, and

wherein said print controller further comprises an auxiliary second memory, and reads the correction values out of the first memory via the strobe signal lines for temporary storage of the correction values in the second memory, and thereafter conveys

the correction values to the driving section ~~via the connection arrangement~~ over the data signal line prior to a printing operation.

9. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said first memory has control terminals for controlling the operation of said first memory and data input/output terminals, and said control terminals and said input/output terminals are connected to said strobe signal lines.

10. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said first memory is subjected to an operation control for writing said correction values into said first memory and reading out said correction values into said second memory by the strobe signals which are supplied from said strobe signal lines to said control terminals.

Claim 11 (cancelled).

12. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said first memory is an EEPROM.

13. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the print controller further comprises a compressing circuit for compressing said correction values which are stored in said first memory, and wherein said CPU decompresses said compressed correction values out from said first memory and supplies the decompressed values read to said driving section through said second memory and ~~connection arrangement~~ said data signal line.

14. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said first memory has a data input terminal, a data output terminal, a selection terminal, and a clock terminal, and
each of said strobe signal lines is connected to a respective one of the terminals.

15. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the strobe signal lines ~~other than~~ include a strobe signal line ~~line which are link-driven~~ are that is connected to said selection terminal of said first memory and a strobe signal line that is connected to said clock terminal of said first memory.

16. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein
said first memory further has a write inhibition terminal, and
said CPU transmits a permission signal to permit the driving of said driven elements to said driving section and said write inhibition terminal of said first memory and, when the driving of said driven elements is permitted by said permission signal, ~~the~~ a writing operation to said first memory is inhibited.

Claim 17 (cancelled).

18. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the driven elements are light-emitting elements, and the correction values are used to compensate for variations in light emission of the light-emitting elements.

Claim 19 (cancelled).

20. (new) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
the first memory is an EEPROM,
the strobe signal lines include first, second, third, and fourth strobe signal lines that are respectively connected to first, second, third, and fourth terminals of the EEPROM, and
the print controller reads the correction values out of the first memory by setting the first strobe signal line at a predetermined logic level, emitting the clock signal on the second strobe signal line, emitting a start address on the third strobe signal line, and receiving correction values from the first memory over the fourth strobe signal line.

21. (new) An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein
the first memory is an EEPROM,
the strobe signal lines include first, second, third, and fourth strobe signal lines
that are respectively connected to first, second, third, and fourth terminals of the
EEPROM, and
the CPU reads the correction values out of the first memory by setting the first
strobe signal line at a predetermined logic level, emitting the clock signal on the second
strobe signal line, emitting a start address on the third strobe signal line, and receiving
correction values from the first memory over the fourth strobe signal line.